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REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ON ITS ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION*

(New York, 24-26 February 1993)

* The present document is a mimeographed version of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its organizational session. The final report will be issued in Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 5 (E/1993/25).

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I. MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

A. Draft decision

1. The Commission on Sustainable Development recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its organizational session and provisional agenda for the first session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its organizational session and approves the provisional agenda for the first session of the Commission, set out below:

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE FIRST SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

2. Adoption of a multi-year thematic programme of work for the Commission.

3. Issues relating to the future work of the Commission.

4. Exchanges of information regarding implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level:

   (a) Guidelines to the Secretariat for organizing information provided by Governments, including information in the form of periodic communications or national reports and national Agenda 21 action plans regarding the activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the problems they face, such as those related to financial resources and technology transfer, and other environment and development issues they find relevant;

   (b) Ways in which, upon request, the United Nations system and bilateral donors are assisting countries, particularly developing countries, in the preparation of periodic communications or national reports and national Agenda 21 action plans.

5. Progress in the incorporation of recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the activities of international organizations, and measures undertaken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure that sustainable development principles are incorporated in programmes and processes within the United Nations system.

6. Progress achieved in facilitating and promoting the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building.

7. Initial financial commitments, financial flows and arrangements to give effect to the decisions of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development from all available funding sources and

mechanisms, including those referred to in paragraph 33.14 of Agenda 21.

8. Provisional agenda for the second session of the Commission.

9. Other matters.

10. Consideration of the outcome of the discussion on the above items, as well as of urgent and major emerging issues, at the high-level meeting of the first session of the Commission.

11. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its first session.

B. Decision calling for action by the Council

2. The following decision adopted by the Commission calls for action by the Economic and Social Council:

Multi-year thematic programme of work for the Commission

At its 6th meeting, on 26 February 1993, the Commission on Sustainable Development:

(a) Took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the outline of a multi-year thematic programme of work for the Commission, 1/ and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a draft of such a programme for consideration and adoption by the Commission at its first session, taking into account comments and views expressed during the organizational session of the Commission;

(b) Recommended that the following clusters of chapters of Agenda 21 be considered as the basis for the programme of work:

(i) Critical elements of sustainability (chapters 2-5);

(ii) Financial resources and mechanisms (chapter 33);

(iii) Education, science, transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building (chapters 16 and 34-37);

(iv) Decision-making structures (chapters 8 and 38-40);

(v) Roles of major groups (chapters 23-32);

(vi) Health, human settlements and fresh water (chapters 6, 7, 18 and 21);

(vii) Land, desertification, forests and biodiversity (chapters 10-15);

(viii) Atmosphere, oceans and all kinds of seas (chapters 9 and 17);

(ix) Toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes (chapters 19, 20 and 22);

1/ E/CN.17/1993/2.

(c) Decided that the programme of work should be based on an integrated approach to environment and development, taking full account of the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 2/ and all other aspects of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992, and should reflect the cross-linkages between and among sectoral and cross-sectoral components of Agenda 21;

(d) Recommended that clusters (i) to (v) be considered by the Commission on an annual basis, with a particular focus on certain chapters of Agenda 21 within each cluster, as appropriate;

(e) Further recommended that clusters (vi) to (ix) be considered by the Commission on a multi-year basis;

(f) Requested the Secretary-General, in formulating his proposals for a programme of work for consideration by the Commission, to take into account the calendar of major forthcoming intergovernmental meetings, negotiating processes and international decades in the economic, social and related fields, such as those related to the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, the United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, and any recommended follow-up activities associated with above-mentioned conferences.

C. Decision brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following decision adopted by the Commission is brought to the attention of the Council:

Issues relating to the future work of the Commission

At its 6th meeting, on 26 February 1993 the Commission on Sustainable Development decided:

(a) That at each session, on the basis of its agenda, it would determine the need for and the number of informal negotiating groups, as well as the need for other specific sessional arrangements for its work, on the understanding that the number of such groups would not exceed three during a particular session and that no more than two of them would meet simultaneously;

(b) That, in preparing the agendas of its forthcoming sessions, it would determine which reports were to be considered from all relevant organs, organizations, programmes and institutions of the United Nations system, as well as international financial institutions, including the Global

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2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janiero, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), resolution 1, annex I.

Environmental Facility, and the links with those bodies, including the expert advice from the High-level Advisory Board presented by the Secretary-General;

(c) That it would determine ways to consider reports and contributions from entities outside the United Nations system, including non-governmental organizations;

(d) To request the Chairman, with the assistance of other members of the Bureau and the Secretariat, to conduct, during the intersessional period, informal consultations with all members of the Commission and other interested delegations on the issues outlined above and to present his proposals to the Commission for approval at the first session.

II. PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION AT ITS FIRST SESSION

4. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 2nd and 4th to 6th meetings, from 24 to 26 February 1993. It had before it a note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and organization of work of the Commission at its first session (E/CN.17/1993/L.1).

5. At the 2nd meeting, on 24 February, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), the United States of America, Benin, Cuba, the Russian Federation, Pakistan, Vanuatu, Australia, Nigeria, Iceland (on behalf also of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden), Tunisia, Japan, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Bolivia and the observers for Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community), Peru and Uganda.

6. At the 4th meeting, on 25 February, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), the United States of America, Australia, Sri Lanka, India, China, Cuba and Canada and the observer for Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community).

7. At the 5th meeting, on 26 February, the Chairman orally proposed two draft decisions, one on the provisional agenda for the first session of the Commission and the other on issues relating to the Commission's future work. The draft decisions were orally amended by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), the United States of America, Canada, India, Australia, Austria, China, Japan, Benin, Vanuatu, Singapore, the Philippines and Egypt and the observers for Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community), Uganda and New Zealand.

8. At the 6th meeting, on 26 February, the draft decisions were further orally amended by the representatives of Benin, Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), Canada and Egypt, and the observer for Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community).

9. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda for its first session, as orally amended, for submission to the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. A).

10. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision on issues relating to its future work, as orally amended (see chap. I, sect. C).

III. OUTLINE OF A MULTI-YEAR PROGRAMME OF WORK FOR THE COMMISSION

11. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 1st to 5th meetings, from 24 to 26 February 1993. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the outline of a multi-year thematic programme of work for the Commission (E/CN.17/1993/2).

12. At the 1st meeting, on 24 February, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), Austria, the United States of America, China, Iceland (on behalf also of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden), Canada and Pakistan and the observers for Malawi and Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community).

13. At the 2nd meeting, on 24 February, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Singapore, Mexico, Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), the Netherlands, Australia, India and France and the observer for Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community).

14. At the 3rd meeting, on 25 February, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), the United States of America, Australia, Tunisia, Japan, Canada, the Netherlands and India and the observer for Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community).

15. At the 4th meeting, on 25 February, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), Japan, the United States of America, Austria, Canada and China and the observer for Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community).

16. At the 5th meeting, on 26 February, the Chairman orally proposed a draft decision on the multi-year thematic programme of work for the Commission. The draft decision was orally amended by the representatives of Colombia (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), the United States of America, Canada, India, Australia, Austria, China, Japan, Benin, Vanuatu, Singapore, the Philippines and Egypt and the observers for Denmark (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community), Uganda and New Zealand.

17. At the same meeting the Commission adopted the draft decision, as orally amended (see chap. I, sect. B).

IV. ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

A. Opening and duration of the session

18. The Commission held its organizational session at United Nations Headquarters from 24 to 26 February 1993. The Commission held six meetings.

19. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development.

B. Attendance

20. The following States members of the Commission were represented at the organizational session: Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, Austria, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Gabon, Germany, Guinea, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Vanuatu and Venezuela.

21. The following States Members of the United Nations were represented by observers: Botswana, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, Ghana, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Jamaica, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), New Zealand, Niger, Peru, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, Yugoslavia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

22. The following State not a Member of the United Nations was represented by an observer: Switzerland.

23. Palestine was represented by an observer.

24. The following specialized agencies were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Fund for Agricultural Development and United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

25. The International Atomic Energy Agency was also represented.

26. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, Commission of the European Communities and Latin American Economic System.

27. The following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council attended the session:

Category I: International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Women.

Category II: Bahá'í International Community.

C. Election of officers

28. At its 1st meeting, on 24 February 1993, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chairman: Razali Ismail (Malaysia)

Members of the Bureau: Rodney Williams (Antigua and Barbuda)
Arthur Campeau (Canada)
Bedrich Moldan (Czech Republic)
Hamadi Khouini (Tunisia)

D. Adoption of the agenda

29. The Commission considered its agenda at its 1st meeting, on 24 February 1993. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Provisional agenda (E/CN.17/1993/1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on an outline of a multi-year thematic programme of work for the Commission (E/CN.17/1993/2);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the provisional agenda and organization of work of the Commission at its first session (E/CN.17/1993/L.1).

30. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda for its organizational session, which was as follows:

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Election of the Chairman and other members of the Bureau.

3. Provisional agenda and organization of work of the Commission at its first session.

4. Outline of a multi-year thematic programme of work for the Commission.

5. Other organizational issues.

Annex

LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AT ITS ORGANIZATIONAL SESSION

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title
E/CN.17/1993/1	1 and 5	Provisional agenda
E/CN.17/1993/2	4	Outline of a multi-year thematic programme of work for the Commission: report of the Secretary-General
E/CN.17/1993/L.1	3	Provisional agenda and organization of work of the Commission at its first session: note by the Secretariat

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